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IN THE CLAIMS:**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. (Currently Amended) A tympanic thermometer comprising:

5 a heat sensing probe defining a longitudinal axis and an outer surface extending from a distal end of the tympanic thermometer;

an ejection apparatus including at least one finger extending from the distal end of the tympanic thermometer and being configured for movement along the outer surface of the probe toward a distal end of the probe; and

10 a probe cover being mountable to the distal end of the tympanic thermometer, the probe cover defining an inner surface configured to engage the outer surface of the probe, the probe cover including at least one longitudinal rib radially projecting from the inner surface thereof, the longitudinal rib defining a proximal face to facilitate ejection of the probe cover,

15 wherein the at least one finger is movable, to eject the probe cover, toward the distal end of the probe, along the outer surface of the probe and within the probe cover, and further is in contact with ~~is configured to engage~~ the proximal face at the inner surface of the probe cover, until the probe cover is released from the probe.

20 2. (Original) A tympanic thermometer as recited in claim 1, wherein the outer surface of the probe defines a groove, transversely oriented relative to the longitudinal axis, which is configured to receive a portion of the probe cover for releasably retaining the probe cover with the probe.

25 3. (Original) A tympanic thermometer as recited in claim 2, wherein the portion of the probe cover includes a plurality of protuberances projecting from the inner surface of the probe cover and being proximally spaced from the distal end of the probe cover.

4. (Original) A tympanic thermometer as recited in claim 1, wherein the ejection apparatus includes a plurality of fingers.

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5. (Original) A tympanic thermometer as recited in claim 1, wherein the at least one finger includes a tapered finger tip defining a distal strike face.
6. (Original) A tympanic thermometer as recited in claim 1, wherein the at least one finger is movable between a retracted position and an extended position.
- 5 7. (Original) A tympanic thermometer as recited in claim 6, whereby the at least one finger is biased to the extended position.
8. (Original) A tympanic thermometer as recited in claim 1, whereby the at least one finger is releasably fixable in a retracted position.
9. (Original) A tympanic thermometer as recited in claim 8, wherein the at least one
10 finger is releasably fixable via a latch, whereby the latch includes a release button that is engageable to release the at least one finger from the retracted position.
10. (Original) A probe cover as recited in claim 1, wherein the probe cover includes a plurality of longitudinal ribs.
11. (Currently Amended) A tympanic thermometer as recited in claim 1, wherein the
15 at least one longitudinal rib has a transverse face having a substantially parallel orientation relative to the longitudinal axis of the probe.
12. (Original) A tympanic thermometer as recited in claim 1, wherein the ejection
20 apparatus includes equidistantly spaced fingers, each having a tapered finger tip that defines a distal strike face and the probe cover including equidistantly spaced longitudinal ribs, each having a proximal strike face, wherein the distal strike faces and proximal strike faces engage for moving the fingers between a retracted position and an extended position.
13. - 20 (Canceled)